CALIFORNIA LEGACY PROJECT
SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP IN FRESNO
MARCH 12 - 13, 2003

INTERIM REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2003

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
resources
AGENCY

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop series is based on the premise that the best way to develop a statewide conservation strategy is to engage with the varied communities throughout our state to understand the unique natural and working landscapes in each bioregion. The California Legacy Project completed nine bioregional workshops across the State in 2002 – 2003. These workshops provide a better understanding of the resources highly valued in the region and the strategies for conservation investment that best fit each region.

The San Joaquin Valley *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop, held in Fresno on March 12 - 13, 2003, was the sixth in the series of nine bioregional workshops.

As shown on the maps below, this region included portions of Sacramento, Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, San Benito, Kings, Tulare, Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties.

The contents of this report cover:

1. Legacy goals, workshop results, and follow-up actions,
2. A general summary of workshop highlights and events,
3. Detailed transcriptions, maps, and preliminary analysis resulting from the workshop.

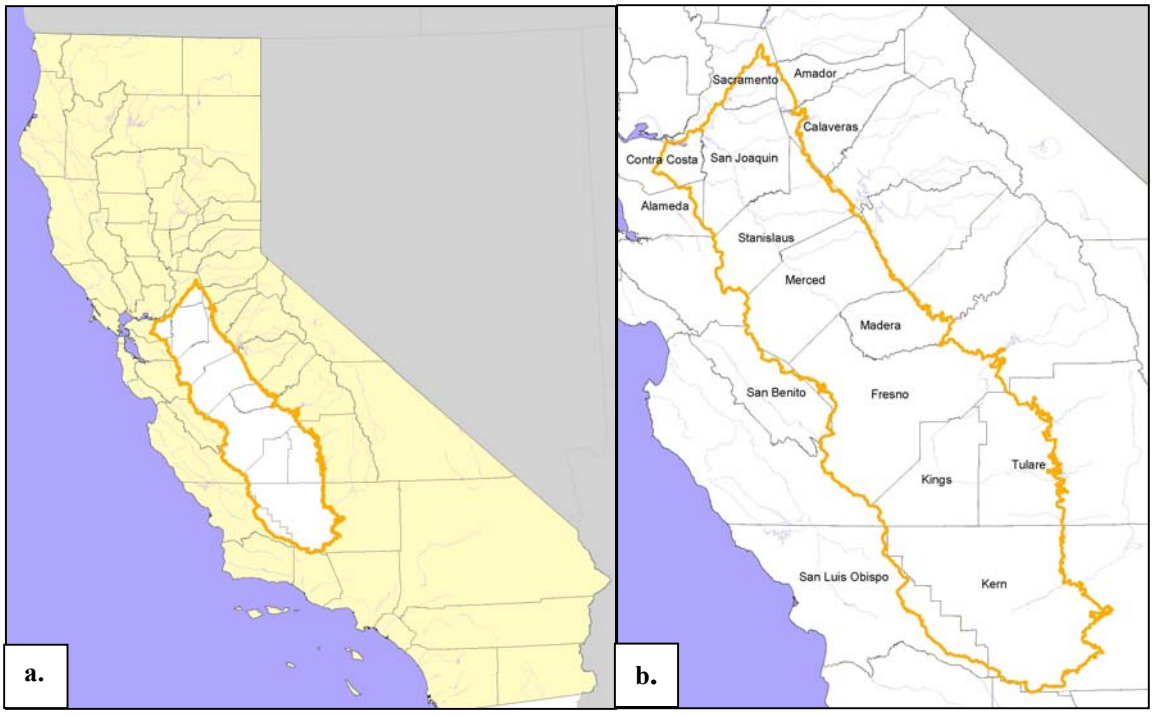


Figure 1a. California's San Joaquin Valley bioregion in the context of the entire state; 1b. Detail of the San Joaquin Valley.

The workshops were designed to accomplish the following goals:

1. Put a spotlight on land and water conservation projects and opportunities throughout the state;
2. Introduce the Legacy Project to regional conservation stakeholders;
3. Elicit information about existing regional conservation plans and priorities; monitoring, management and stewardship projects; and available data sets and;
4. Gain a sense of the participant's priorities for conservation including the criteria they might use for investing in conservation of various resources, and the strategies they believe are most applicable to their region and interests.

GOALS, RESULTS, AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In support of these goals, results and follow-up actions are summarized below:

1. *Spotlight conservation:* A diverse group of people who work on and are affected by conservation had the opportunity to hear each other's views and to interact. People from different parts of the region had an opportunity to share information and think about the region and the State as a whole. To follow-up, participants were added themselves to the email list for Legacy's on-line newsletter, *The Watering Hole* [http://legacy.ca.gov/subscribe.epl]. Also, the Legacy Project staff distributed a participant contact list and will distribute workshop results to participants for review prior to publication.

2. *Introduce the Legacy Project:* Following a presentation, participants had the opportunity to ask substantial and challenging questions about the Legacy Project. They appreciated the interest expressed regarding their views about State conservation investment strategies. Resource Agency departments were also able to highlight their valuable work in the region at display booths and in workshop sessions.

3. *Elicit information:* Participants viewed maps of statewide and regional datasets (e.g. land cover types, publicly owned conservation lands, etc.) for a broad view of resources. Legacy staff received contacts for important local datasets and access to data sharing. Participants identified local monitoring, restoration, and stewardship projects, and conservation planning efforts. Legacy Project staff gained a better sense of places in the region that are high conservation priorities. For follow up, regional maps presented at the workshops and additional information received will be evaluated for inclusion in the web-based California Digital Conservation Atlas [http://legacy.ca.gov/new_atlas.epl]. Sharing this information with state agencies will enable them to consider existing local and regional plans and recommended regional priorities when determining statewide priorities for investment.

4. *Gain a sense of conservation criteria:* Participants generated a list of criteria (and ranked them) for Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes, Rural Recreation Lands, and Urban Open Space. These criteria will help guide the Legacy Project to develop data and analysis tools for public use. The criteria will also be compared with results from other regional workshops and presented to agencies and organizations that make conservation funding decisions.

Gain insight on conservation investment tools: In break-out groups, participants were asked to identify conservation strategies appropriate to their region. For follow-up, Legacy staff will review differences in sub-regional and region-to –region strategies and will attempt to determine how these differences can be taken into account in developing conservation investment strategies at the state level. In addition, Legacy will develop lists of both broadly applicable and innovative strategies, especially those that can further economic development as well as conservation.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

One of the key components of the workshop is an "Information Exchange" gallery where participants share their knowledge of the area's conservation efforts and their opinions as to what areas should be considered regional and statewide conservation priorities. It is set up as an open house of interactive stations focused on specific conservation-related questions. Here are the results of the five stations set up in the Exchange.

Data available and data needs: Participants viewed Legacy's existing regional and statewide maps depicting natural resources datasets, and land ownership and land use boundaries. Nine datasets previously unrecorded by the Legacy Project were brought to our attention, such as Caltrans' data on Environmental Sensitive Areas along State routes. Two areas on our maps were marked as being in need of correction. Data available will help inform the regional and local database survey and will be added to California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) [http://ceres.ca.gov].

Existing and emerging conservation planning efforts: Of the 33 conservation efforts identified, more than a third addressed multiple resource types. Approximately half (48%) of the plans addressed Terrestrial Biodiversity, with a number of these focused on riparian habitat or watershed-wide protection or restoration that would benefit both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Forty two percent of the plans were identified as dealing with some aspect of Aquatic Biodiversity. Fewer plans (between 20 and 30%) dealt with Rural Recreation, Working Lands, or Urban Open Space. The most commonly cited targets for these plans were rare or sensitive species, riparian preservation, and river restoration. This input will be complied into regional maps of existing and emerging conservation plans and areas of conservation interest. These maps will be evaluated before possible inclusion in the Legacy Project's web-based Digital Conservation Atlas.

Private land stewardship: Three stewardship projects were identified, all of which addressed conservation on either grazing and or agricultural lands.

Regional conservation priorities: In general, attendees highlighted locations centered on the region's rivers, with water quality, flood control, and water storage mentioned as important issues. Of the 76 locations identified, the San Joaquin River received the greatest attention. A total of five dots were assigned to the San Joaquin River, and several west-side Sierra rivers, including the San Joaquin, were listed as priorities for a sixth dot. Tulare Lake was also noted as an important location for conservation. Many dots span the foothills along the region's eastern boundary. Protection of rare and endemic plants and oak woodlands, as well as rapid growth and development, were noted concerns in the foothills.

Statewide conservation priorities: The majority of locations identified as statewide priorities were within the San Joaquin Valley, indicating that participants believe conservation priorities in their region are as deserving of attention and funding as other locations throughout the state. Chosen locations were distributed throughout the Valley, without a concentrated focus on particular sites. On a statewide basis, water quality issues, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, and rapid growth and development in the foothill regions were repeatedly cited as important concerns.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Interim Report is a summary of the California Legacy Project Spotlight on Conservation workshop held in Fresno for the San Joaquin Valley bioregion. This workshop was the sixth in a series of nine workshops to be held throughout the State in 2002-2003. Participating counties included Sacramento, Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, San Benito, Kings, Tulare, Kern and San Luis Obispo. The Interim Report is a record of the workshop results and provides some preliminary analysis.

> *"The California Legacy Project will assist everyone who knows the land and is working to save it. We're making an unprecedented effort to reach out to those who care about the future of California's natural resources. I invite you to get involved in this exciting effort to work with us on the state-of-the-art tools and conservation strategies that will help protect and restore California's natural resources and working landscapes."*
>
> ***-Mary D. Nichols***
> ***Secretary for Resources***

In an effort to develop California's first–ever statewide resources conservation strategy, the California Legacy Project is working with Resources Agency state departments, boards, commissions and conservancies, CALEPA departments, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and federal and nonprofit conservation partners. The Project seeks the input of stakeholders affected by conservation investment, as well as of advocates for conservation investment. The Legacy Project will create analytical tools that can help state and federal agencies; local and regional governments; and public, non-profit, and private groups assess resource values and risks, and conservation opportunities for large landscape areas in each of the state's major bioregions. Such evaluations guide decision-makers to more effective and strategic allocations of funds.

The California Legacy Project includes a wide range of perspectives and incorporates agency and public participation at all levels of its work. It builds on existing data and conservation efforts, facilitating partnerships in data improvement and conservation actions. Working together with a host of partners, the Project helps to ensure a legacy of natural resources and working landscapes for California's future.

II. SESSION RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Nearly seventy people attended the San Joaquin Valley workshop. All workshop invitees were recommended to Legacy staff as being knowledgeable about and interested in regional conservation and natural resource issues. In extending invitations, we attempted to be thorough and to include a broad spectrum of viewpoints and expertise. However, we recognize that our participant groups still represented a relatively small, self-selected, focus group. Thus, we recognize that the recorded responses from this workshop are not representative of the state or region, or of natural resources professionals as a whole.

The workshops are designed for one-and-a-half days and have two distinct, but equally important, components: (1) a series of facilitated discussions in large and small groups, and (2) an "Information Exchange,"

set up in an open house format, where participants view and react to an extensive gallery of maps and data and provide Legacy with information on conservation-related questions.

Day One begins with a welcome, a presentation about the Legacy Project, and a presentation about other current planning efforts in the region. This is intended to set the context for follow-up conversations. Participants then discuss regional conservation issues in a facilitated, large group session. Day One ends with a two-hour opportunity to engage in the "Information Exchange" and provide detailed input.

Day Two begins with small break-out groups discussing the type of criteria they would use in deciding how to invest in conservation of five resource types (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Lands, Rural Recreation, and Urban Open Space). Once the small groups identify criteria, the large group then ranks each one from the *most important* to *least important*. In the afternoon, following a brief presentation on Legacy's California Digital Conservation Atlas, participants convene in small groups for discussions of strategies that are applicable to resource conservation in their region. Participants then return to large group for reports back on the results of the small group sessions and a summary presentation highlighting results of the workshop. Finally, the workshops end with a closing address by an official from the Resource Agency. For a detailed Workshop Agenda see Appendix A.

WORKSHOP OPENING

To open the workshop, participants were welcomed by the Honorable Juan Arambula, Chair, Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Arambula described his own childhood experiences as a migrant farm worker and articulated his belief that fostering citizens' concern for the land will be essential in preserving the Valley's agricultural value. He also noted that principles of smart growth will become increasingly important as the Valley's population grows.

Following Arambula's welcome, Norman Crow, Watershed Coordinator, West and East Stanislaus Resource Conservation Districts, spoke about the rich history of farming in the San Joaquin Valley. He highlighted issues of importance for the Valley, including irrigation, soil erosion, and water and air quality. Finally, he described the challenge currently facing farmers in the Valley which is to keep agriculture productive and profitable while finding practices that will protect the land and resources for future farmers.

Next, Tim Ramirez, Assistant Secretary, California Resources Agency, described the relationships between CALFED, The Legacy Project and other State and Federal programs pertaining to natural resources in California. The Legacy Project, Ramirez explained, has a larger scope than CALFED, both geographically and in terms of the resources addressed. The Legacy Project's broad definition of conservation

includes not only terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, but also urban open space, recreation, and working landscapes. CALFED deals with water resources, focusing on water projects and rivers. CALFED was formed in 1994 as a State and Federal agreement to resolve some of the outstanding issues resulting from the complicated "plumbing" and multiple sets of legislation and agreements affecting water in California (such as the State Water Project, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act). CALFED is now administered by a new state agency, the California Bay Delta Authority. Ramirez noted that CALFED is laid out regionally, with the San Joaquin Valley designated as one region of focus. One regional CALFED project is the San Joaquin River Management Study, which is an information clearinghouse.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the first day of the workshop, participants were asked to identify the region's existing and emerging conservation plans. A significant number of conservation planning efforts centered on river restoration and planning for habitat preservation.

While these planning efforts were designed to meet some of the San Joaquin Valley's most pressing issues, participants also detailed a host of regional challenges including: population growth and development patterns; the difficulty of diverse citizen interests working together; and water supply issues.

Regional strengths and opportunities to meet these challenges were also presented, including: the tremendous value of regional agriculture; the potential to improve air and water quality through restoration, stewardship, legislation, and improved technology; and the use of planning to direct development and growth.

The lists of the plans, challenges, and opportunities identified by San Joaquin workshop participants follow. These are not in order of priority, nor are they intended to be exhaustive lists of plans, possible opportunities, and constraints; rather these lists document the projects and ideas that were foremost in participants' minds at the start of the workshop.

EMERGING PLANS

1. Many watershed plans throughout the region
2. Natural Resources Defense Council San Joaquin River Restoration Plan
3. Kern County Valley Habitat Conservation Plan ("Valley Floor")
4. Integrated, on-farm drainage management plan
5. San Joaquin Habitat Conservation Plan
6. Yosemite Corridor Plan
7. Upper San Joaquin River storage investigation
8. San Joaquin River Parkway
9. "Places" computer modeling tool to plan for infill and re-development
10. State Transportation Plan
11. San Joaquin Valley Comprehensive Plan
12. Air quality plans
13. Lower San Joaquin River Management Plan
14. Department of Fish and Game Statewide Fisheries Management Plan
15. Visalia Waterways and Trails Master Plan
16. City and County general plans' updates and amendments

CHALLENGES, RISKS, AND THREATS

1. Inadequate education of citizens
2. Not enough thinking out of the box on economic development
3. There needs to be greater willingness to change and improve how we think & solve problems in the San Joaquin Valley
4. Difficult to include full diversity of people in planning/ decisions
5. Apathy, disinterest, and unwillingness of diverse interests to work together
6. Barriers of language and cultural norms
7. Pattern of population growth
8. Demand for low density housing types
9. Growth and agricultural production are on a collision course
10. Risk of loss of food supply, which is an issue of national security
11. Loss of quality of life
12. Inter-jurisdictional conflicts over money and control
13. Conflicts between city/ county planning
14. Changing politics
15. Difficulty of coordinating policies at the local level
16. Risk of conflicting, overlapping plans
17. Real estate market is tight
18. Threats to the Williamson Act
19. Threats to the water supply
20. Keeping economy running smoothly
21. High birth rate (teenage mothers)
22. Operations and management for existing farmland
23. Urban and agricultural storm water contamination
24. Dry/drought conditions

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Local agriculture is valuable to entire country
2. Lots of agricultural and natural land in good shape
3. Agriculture stewardship programs
4. Promote organic farms
5. Money for agriculture conservation easements
6. Wildlife and agriculture easements
7. Land retirement
8. Restoration of rivers and streams
9. Development of data for agriculture and urban water
10. Obtain more groundwater
11. Water storage
12. New air quality protection laws
13. Environmental engineering for clean water/ air
14. Linkages between natural lands
15. Flood protection with more dams; protect water supply & quality
16. Cooperation and collaboration with multiple agencies for funding
17. Better transportation; high speed rail
18. Eco-Tourism
19. Recreation
20. Do planning for development, don't end up with extensive sprawl like L.A.
21. Cities on major rivers can absorb development
22. Shape the Valley's future by learning lessons from other areas
23. Make better life for people in region
24. Multiple planning activities at multiple scales
25. Working collaboratively can avoid Endangered Species Act "train wrecks"
26. Education for environmental awareness
27. Increase citizen activism

FIRST SMALL GROUP SESSION: IDENTIFYING AND WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

On the morning of the second day, small breakout groups were formed and charged with the following task:

> *"Identify characteristics or elements (called criteria) of a resource that makes it desirable or valuable to conserve"*
>
> *Alternatively, participants could identify characteristics or elements that one might use to avoid investing in conservation (such as areas of high urban value).*

Each group identified conservation criteria for one of five resource categories: Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes, Urban Open Space, and Rural Recreation. Once the small group identified criteria, the large group ranked all of the criteria from highest to lowest priority. For a detailed explanation of the ranking process, please see Appendix B.

The charts that follow display the complete list of criteria selected by the small break-out groups for each resource topic, and their relative level of priority as determined by the full group.

The charts are set up as follows: The first column lists the criteria in order of relative importance (from highest to lowest) as ranked by all workshop participants. The second column shows a percent rank for each criterion as compared to the highest-scoring criterion. The third column shows the general level of importance the entire group placed on the each criterion. The fourth column shows the average score received by each criterion, with lower values representing higher value rankings. The last column consists of graphs depicting the frequency and distribution of scores. Although the graphs are small, ranking patterns can be seen, and it is possible to observe where there was general agreement or disagreement in ranking the criteria.

It is important to note that the goal of this exercise was to observe where there was agreement or disagreement about important criteria. The scores are not the result of a consensus process; rather, they reflect the range of opinions of the participants at the workshop. Additionally, while high scores indicate general agreement that a criterion is important, medium or low scores do not mean that a criterion is unimportant; lower scores simply indicate a lower relative placement in the rankings by this participant group.

These criteria will not be used as final recommendations for conservation investment purposes. Rather, in reviewing the Criteria session results, the Legacy Project hopes to observe general patterns, unique discussion outcomes, and commonalities between and among regions. The criteria that are widely agreed upon by participants will guide the Legacy Project in developing data, maps, and analysis tools for public use. This information will also be combined with results from other regional workshops and provided to conservation decision makers for their consideration.

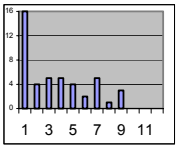
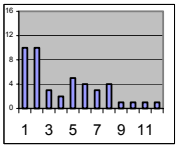
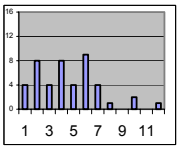
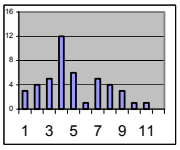
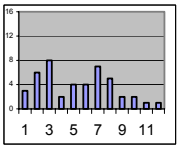
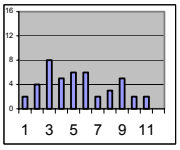
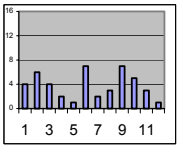
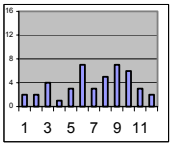
DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF CRITERIA WEIGHTING

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

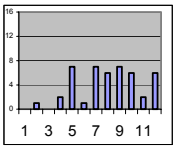
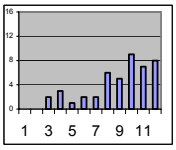
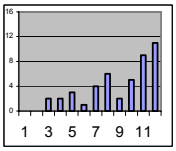
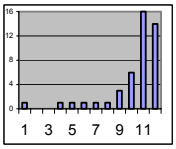
The criteria that received high priority ratings were 1. "High biological and ecological function," 2. "Opportunity and likelihood of success," 3. "High level of threat," 4. "Priority corridors/ linkages." Of these, there was a high level of agreement that the two highest-ranking criteria were important. There was also very strong agreement that the lowest ranking criteria ("Availability and accessibility to Native American cultural materials") was the least important criteria among these to consider in investing for Terrestrial Biodiversity conservation, and there was fairly strong agreement that the next two lowest ranking criteria ("High numbers or mix of habitats" and "Opportunity for demonstrating land management techniques") were also relatively low priority considerations.

Table 1a. Criteria for Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation

Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity

Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High ⟷ Low
High biological and ecological function (one example: critical breeding sites for sensitive species)	100%	**HIGH**	3.58	
Opportunity & likelihood of success, including: ecological feasibility; willing landowner/ participant/ seller; biggest bang for the buck (quality, acreage); money is available (consider allocation or expenditure constraints); community support; potential for agricultural conversion; unique opportunity for taking action	96%	**HIGH**	4.24	
High level of threat: potential for urban development; potential for natural land conversion to agriculture	94%	**HIGH**	4.58	
Priority corridors/ linkages between protected areas; connected areas with low fragmentation	92%	**HIGH**	5.00	
High numbers and richness of species of concern (e.g., threatened & endangered species)	89%	MED	5.36	
Lands with high restoration potential, including: rare species/habitats; habitats requiring fire; floodplains; low presence of exotic species; natural hydrology	89%	MED	5.44	
Lands that provide opportunities to achieve multiple objectives while still emphasizing natural resources conservation: high quality rangelands and watersheds; current habitat coexisting with agriculture; restorable retired lands that are poor for agriculture; natural floodplains	84%	MED	6.20	
Habitats that are under-represented in protected areas (one example: oak woodlands in Sierra foothills and Diablo Range)	79%	MED	7.11	

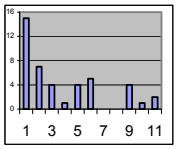
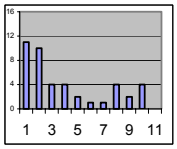
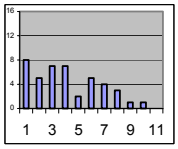
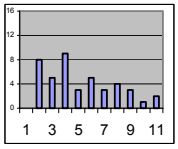
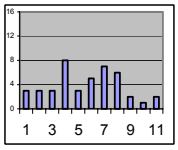
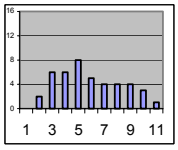
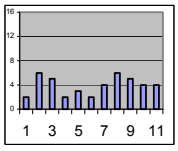
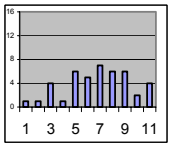
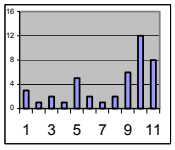
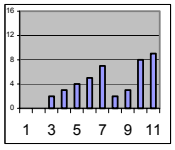
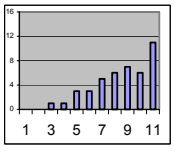
Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity Cont'd

Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High ⟷ Low
Expand existing protected areas; expand coverage of ecological variation in landscape (one example: incorporate elevation gradients)	73%	LOW	8.11	
High numbers or mix of habitats	68%	LOW	9.00	
Opportunity for demonstrating land management techniques	67%	LOW	9.11	
Current or restorable availability and accessibility to Native American cultural materials (plants and sites)	60%	LOW	10.27	

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

The criteria 1. “Maintenance of linkages and migratory functions,” 2. “Native species and habitat diversity,” and 3. “Quantity and quality of water resource” all received high priority designations. Of these, there was an especially high level of agreement about the importance of the top two. criteria. One theme common to these two highest-ranking criteria is consideration of a site’s ecological context in the larger landscape, either considering linkage values or considering habitat diversity. Among the low-ranking criteria, there was especially strong agreement that “Existing infrastructure & economic context and prioritization” and “Historical condition” were of relatively low priority. The low scores given to “Existing infrastructure and economic context” could indicate that participants believe that it is more important to consider ecological and biological criteria than case-by-case feasibility issues.

Table 1b. Criteria for Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

Conservation Objective: Aquatic Biodiversity				
Criteria	**% of max. score**	**Relative Importance**	**Mean**	**Frequency of scores** High ⟷ Low
Maintenance of linkages (migratory corridors; fish passage; degree of fragmentation	100%	**HIGH**	3.79	
Species & habitat diversity (including predominance of native species; including flora and fauna)	99%	**HIGH**	4.00	
Quality & quantity of water resource (water temperature; hydrology within watershed)	98%	**HIGH**	4.14	
Ability of system to maintain itself	91%	MED	5.21	
Restoration potential & feasibility	89%	MED	5.63	
Geomorphology & hydrology characteristics & integrity (substrate type; slope & gradient; channel characteristics; connectivity between floodplain & channel	87%	MED	5.88	
Presence of listed species	85%	MED	6.26	
Areas of multiple benefits (recreation; economic)	81%	MED	6.84	
Existing infrastructure & economic context & overlaps of agency prioritization ("plumbing" infrastructure; regional water use policies & land use plans)	75%	LOW	7.84	
Collaboration opportunities	75%	LOW	7.88	
Historical conditions	71%	LOW	8.53	

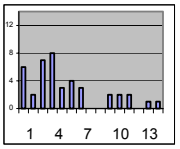
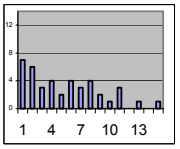
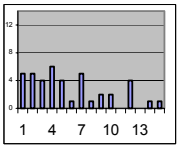
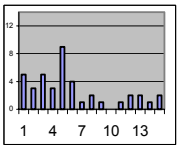
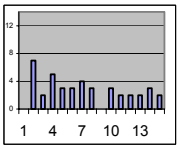
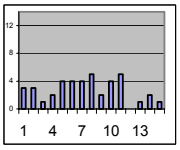
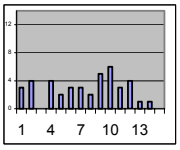
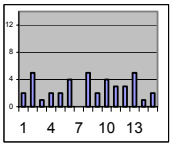
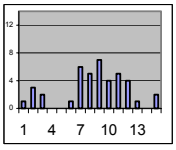
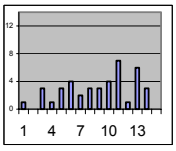
WORKING LANDSCAPES

For the San Joaquin Valley, working landscapes are comprised primarily of agricultural lands. Grazing lands also make up a significant portion of the region's working lands, while forestry accounts for a very limited area.

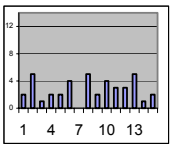
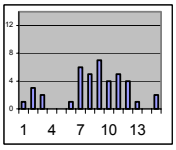
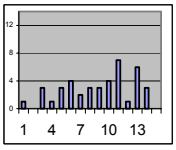
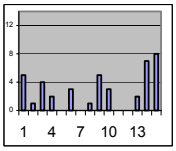
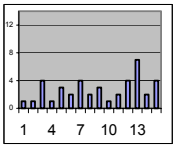
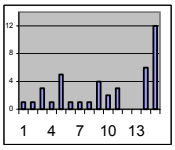
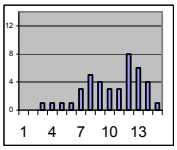
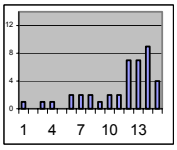
The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Productive agricultural lands with sufficient water," 2. "Supports agricultural economic viability (supports local economy; provides jobs)," 3. "Conserve areas under greatest threat of conversion," 4. "Farmland with additional resource values," 5. "High value grazing land," 6. "Sufficient contiguous acres of viable agricultural land (part of a plan)," and 7. "Focus on lands with minimal environmental impact or where environmental impact can be reduced." Of these, there was strong agreement that the top-four ranking criteria were important, suggesting that sustaining the viability of agriculture and conserving farmland based on its economic value to farmers was of prime value.

Among the low ranking criteria, there was very strong agreement that considerations of "cost" are relatively unimportant in planning for working lands conservation. There was also a fairly high level of agreement that "Mechanism for monitoring and management" was a relatively low priority. The agreement about these two lowest ranking criteria is interesting because these criteria are more of a means to evaluate the feasibility of a project once a set of priority areas are already identified, rather than characteristics that could be used to identify high priority areas for conservation from the beginning of the planning process.

Table 1c. Criteria for Working Landscapes Conservation

Objective: Working Landscapes - Farmlands/ Grazing				
Criteria	**% of Max.**	**Relative Importance**	**Mean**	**Frequency of scores** High ⟷ Low
Productive agricultural lands with sufficient water	100%	**HIGH**	5.32	
Supports agricultural economic viability (supports local economy; provides jobs)	100%	**HIGH**	5.37	
Conserve areas under greatest threat of conversion	97%	**HIGH**	5.73	
Farmland with additional resource values (scenic, recreation, ecological function)	96%	**HIGH**	5.95	
High value grazing land	88%	**HIGH**	7.29	
Sufficient contiguous acres of viable agricultural land (part of a plan)	88%	**HIGH**	7.34	
Focus on lands with minimal environmental impact or where environmental impact can be reduced	87%	**HIGH**	7.44	
Farms that already provide environmental and social equity benefits	83%	MED	8.12	
Opportunities for successful partnerships (e.g. with local government; willing participants; not interfering with profitability)	80%	MED	8.54	
Focus on areas that minimize human and agricultural conflict	78%	MED	8.95	

Objective: Working Landscapes - Farmlands/ Grazing Cont'd

Criteria	% of Max.	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High ⟷ Low
Farms that already provide environmental and social equity benefits	83%	MED	8.12	
Opportunities for successful partnerships (e.g., with local government; willing participants; not interfering with profitability)	80%	MED	8.54	
Focus on areas that minimize human and agricultural conflict	78%	MED	8.95	
Opportunities where willing landowners can receive immediate benefits and not interfere with profit making and have positive partnership (contributing valuable agricultural commodities)	77%	MED	9.07	
Opportunities to improve urban quality of life (e.g., urban growth limits; encouraging infill)	76%	MED	9.17	
Avoid areas where locals have planned for growth	71%	LOW	10.12	
Ability to have viable mechanism for management and monitoring (one example: endowment)	69%	LOW	10.32	
Cost as a way of setting priorities	64%	LOW	11.27	

URBAN OPEN SPACE

Prior to generating criteria for investment in Urban Open Space, participants in this group discussed the functions of Urban Open Space. They agreed upon the following definition of Urban Open Space:

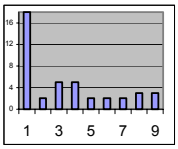
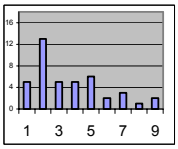
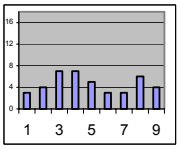
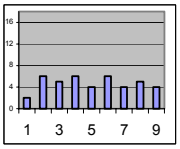
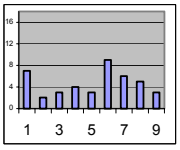
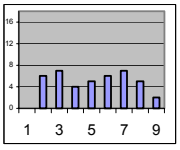
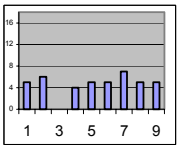
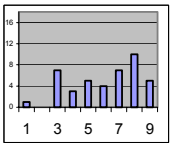
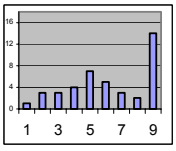
> A wide range of sites with natural elements that provide aesthetic, emotional, social, educational & recreational benefits to residents and visitors within & adjacent to developed urban areas.

They identified the following unmet funding needs for Urban Open Space:

- Seed money for grant, writing, design, environmental work, operation & maintenance subsidies
- Environmental education
- Public transit to open space
- Employ neighborhood residents in urban parks as part of welfare reform
- Operation and management funding
- Focus in areas outside of CALFED

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Supports ecological functions," and 2. "Preserves open space and buffer zones along rivers." There was strong agreement that both of these high-ranking criteria were important. It is noteworthy that even when considering Urban Open Space, the highest-ranking criteria was an ecological one, rather than a criteria about availability of open space or recreation for people. This result indicates that participants believed that Urban Open Space can and should contribute multiple benefits both to people and to ecological integrity in order to merit conservation investment. There was low agreement about the importance of the medium ranking criteria, with participants' assigning scores that ranged across the board from high to low. There wasn't particularly strong agreement about either of the low-ranking criteria. Although a large number of participants ranked "Addresses environmental justice issues" lowest, there were also a fair contingent of participants that ranked this criteria near the middle of the scale.

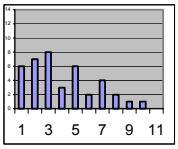
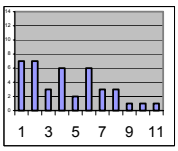
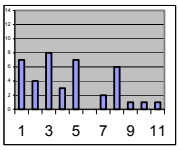
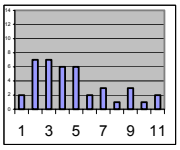
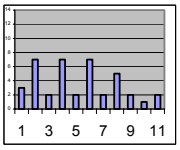
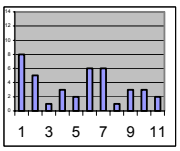
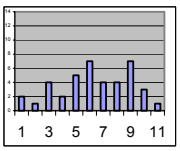
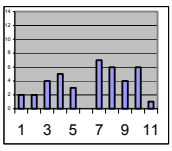
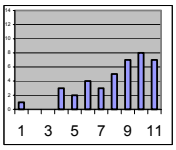
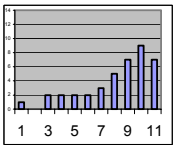
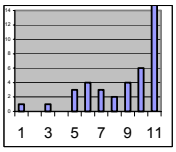
Table 1d. Criteria for Urban Open Space Conservation

Objective: Urban Open Space				
Criteria	**% of max. score**	**Relative Importance**	**Mean**	**Frequency of scores** High ⟷ Low
Supports ecological functions (habitat corridors & connectivity; groundwater recharge; riparian habitat buffers; flood control; native species propagation)	100%	**HIGH**	6.62	
Preserves open space & buffer zones along rivers	98%	**HIGH**	7.13	
Supports a range of recreation opportunities (multi-use with school facilities; sports; dog parks)	91%	MED	9.56	
Linear open space (trails; biking; integrated into local transportation plan)	90%	MED	9.79	
Integration with planning (invest in: areas where design and California Environmental Quality Act has been initiated and completed; locations that fulfill Quimby Act; park space consistent with general plan policies)	90%	MED	9.84	
Public accessibility (within walking or biking distance; close to public transit; affordable entry fees [if any]; not private amenities)	89%	MED	9.98	
Capacity for operation and maintenance and partnership (cooperative ventures between local gov'ts and non-profit groups; public stewardship programs in place)	89%	MED	10.21	
Environmental education opportunities (integrates existing educational programs; enables stewardship as education)	83%	LOW	11.82	
Addresses environmental justice issues (buffer or convert problem & blighted areas; employs communities & youth; opportunities for neighborhood investment & involvement)	83%	LOW	11.96	

RURAL RECREATION

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. “Compatible with existing and surrounding land uses,” 2. “Meets regional community needs,” 3. “Long term sustainability,” 4. “Recreational uses are appropriate to physical characteristics of landscape,” 5. “Helps meet other economic, public safety, & resource objectives,” and 6. “Provides broad-spectrum of exceptional recreation opportunities.” Of these, there was a relatively high level of the agreement about the importance of the top-four ranking criteria. One theme among the top three of these high ranking criteria is consideration of how the site fits into local land use and planning, either in terms of being compatible with surrounding land use, of meeting community needs, or of long-term sustainability and ability to be maintained as a recreation facility. There was fairly strong agreement that the three low ranking criteria were relatively unimportant.

Table 1e. Criteria for Rural Recreation Conservation

Objective: Rural Recreation				
Criteria	**% of max. score**	**Relative Importance**	**Mean**	**Frequency of scores** High ⟷ Low
Compatible with existing and surrounding land uses (doesn't conflict with environmentally and economically important uses)	100%	**HIGH**	4.03	
Meets regional community needs	98%	**HIGH**	4.38	
Long term sustainability	97%	**HIGH**	4.45	
Recreational uses are appropriate to physical characteristics of landscape	95%	**HIGH**	4.78	
Helps meet other economic, public safety, & resource objectives (I.e., parkways that help keep development out of floodways, or helps bring in tourism)	93%	**HIGH**	5.18	
Provides broad-spectrum of exceptional recreation opportunities (I.e., scenic vistas, water bodies, historic cultural sites)	93%	**HIGH**	5.20	
Overall size is large enough or contiguous to other recreation areas	85%	MED	6.38	
Is accessible	85%	MED	6.43	
Proximity to fastest growing areas (anticipate future recreation demands; acquire land at good value prior to growth)	74%	LOW	8.20	
Addresses threats to recreational opportunities	74%	LOW	8.20	
Meets specialty needs that are not compatible with other uses; fills a niche for a certain type of recreation	70%	LOW	8.80	

SECOND SMALL GROUP SESSION: REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

The task of the second small group session was to identify conservation strategies with mutual benefit to local economies and conservation. For this discussion, participants were divided into five small groups and were asked to think region-wide.

In some groups, participants first discussed regional conservation priorities and then discussed potential strategies for achieving those goals. Priorities were defined as areas or resources that are in need of conservation investment. The purpose of identifying priorities was not to generate a complete list representing the group's highest regional priorities; rather, the priorities were used to help focus the group's discussion of strategies. Strategies are approaches to conserving natural resources that combine multiple tools and techniques and best utilize scarce funds and resources.

Four out of five groups independently recognized the following strategies:

Involving the public in thinking about conservation – Three groups noted a need for better education about conservation issues, such as water conservation. Two groups mentioned the importance of informing and engaging the public in local conservation planning, such as updating general plans.

Easements – Participants discussed easements as a tool to protect both open space and working lands. Preservation of local ownership and management was seen as a benefit of easements. Participants noted that preserving open space with easements can direct growth, thus preserving large, viable blocks of agricultural land. The importance of creating easements that are compatible with local land use plans was also emphasized.

Efficient use of water resources – Participants discussed both technological measures and incentives to encourage water conservation. Specific strategies mentioned included more efficient irrigation, planting low water-use crops, better water storage, metering water use, and better planning to address groundwater use.

Maintaining the viability and profitability of agriculture – Suggested strategies to achieve this goal included developing better ways to deal with farm drainage water, marketing for locally grown products, developing sustainable, clean, or organic agricultural practices, and ensuring that prime farmland is preserved for agriculture.

Two out of the five groups recognized the following:

Mitigation Banking – Both groups discussed habitat mitigation banking for development impacts, and one of these groups also suggested using mitigation banks for agricultural land taken out of production.

One group recognized the following:

Developing a restoration industry - A unique strategy mentioned by one group is to promote jobs in restoration and stewardship and to create new sustainable industries (such as nurseries for native plants and seeds). Participants noted that local farmers have many of the necessary skills for restoration work.

Detailed results of the sub-regional groups follow:

1. GROUP ONE: STRATEGIES

What Has Worked?

1. State and conservation land trusts
2. San Joaquin River Conservancy is a good model
   - Stakeholders were involved
   - Identified and created opportunities
   - Addressed concerns and fears
   - Built cooperation
   - Keep land use authority with locals
3. Land Acquisition
   - Acquisitions for multiple-use
   - There are social and community benefits
4. Regional approaches respecting local authorities (such as the Delta Commission)
5. Habitat mitigation banks
6. Easements with endowments
7. Local public initiatives shaping Federal and State plans, such as River Management Commission San Joaquin River Management Plan

New Approaches

1. Link the place where mitigation money is spent to the place where development impact occurs (specify this in general plans)
2. Established a Resource Advisory Commission; provide a quarterly report card on the State Resources Agency
3. Water transfer trust account to preserve prime farmland
4. Engage and inform the public
5. Public is engaging more through less-traditional pathways
6. Use non-regulatory incentives
7. Agricultural land mitigation banking
8. Area of source ordinances to keeps water and land together (as in Fresno County)
9. Groundwater management plans, such as Assembly Bill 1330
10. Watershed management plans, such as Watershed Management Initiatives
11. Link general plans with Watershed Management Initiatives
12. Mandated agricultural land mitigation requirements, designate in collaboration between cities' and counties' general plans

What Hasn't Worked?

1. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)/ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation measures without stewardship and compliance
2. General plans (easy to change without stewardship of resource)
3. Easements without involvement by local government; results in technical and political isolation
4. Top-down mandates
5. Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP's)/ Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP's) undermining resources' monetary values (Council of Governments underestimating financial values)
6. Lack of funding of State mandates for Counties
7. Assessment districts

2. GROUP TWO: STRATEGIES

1. Create farmland and watershed reserves:
   - Coordinate various levels of funding
   - Designate special status lands where development can't occur
     - Use creative incentives, with regulatory component
     - Encourages urban infill
   - Consider the link between California farms and conservation; keep farms and rangelands in production
2. State and Federal agencies should work to support local direction and local programs, rather that taking a top-down approach
3. Don't let resources "drain away"
4. A big-picture vision for conservation priorities is needed
   - Develop conservation policy at the State level
   - Implementation at the local level
5. Protect and make better use of existing water resources
   - Partner with State and Federal government for funding
   - Interconnect systems
   - Enhance flood protection
   - Maximize surface and groundwater storage, get assistance in technological improvements
6. Identify and prioritize solutions that address multiple criteria, build on common interests
   - Find solutions that make economic sense
   - Build cooperation
   - One example: oak protection also protects a cultural food resource for Native Americans
7. Develop a ranking system to evaluate conservation or farmland conversion decisions
   - Implement decision system locally (in order to achieve food security)
8. Establish a levy system on food imports; Buying USA-grown protects agriculture & waterways
   - Encourage organics, and other locally desired products
9. Strengthen sustainable and healthy agricultural production
10. State-level policy with broad direction, incentives, and that assists implementation of local initiatives
11. Housing industry should be more strategic in choosing development sites

3. GROUP THREE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Conservation Priorities	Strategies Addressing this Priority
1. Proper land-use planning: preserve open space and reduce sprawl	– Williamson Act funding; conservation easements – Partnerships with nontraditional partners – Valid economic analysis of long-term costs of development (infrastructure and environmental quality costs)
2. Carnivore conservation	– Education (through 4 H, etc.) on livestock that reduces depredation – Compensating livestock owners for loss (County of Marin County model) – Developing non-lethal techniques for carnivore control
3. Water conservation	– State Water Resource Control Board low-interest loan program for low water use irrigation – Outreach to urban areas to conserve water – Meter water use to charge by amount used – Pro-rate cost of water by amount used (Monterey model) – Require developers to buy water rights before developing (Cambria planning model) – Subsidize technologies to reduce water use – Fund Department of Conservation watershed corridors
4. Conservation education	– Watershed councils – Coordinated education program among different groups
5. Farmland conservation	– Integrated on-farm drainage strategy: Clean up salt-laden drainage water; re-use on farm, re-use salt elsewhere – Regionally focused agriculture incentive, grown & consumed locally
6. Air Quality	
7. Riparian Corridors	
8. Biological diversity	
9. Public involvement in general plan updates	

General Strategies

1. Establish Landowner Land Trusts (Malpai Borderlands model)
2. Use incentive programs
   – Such as Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, Farm Bill programs, Williamson Act, Land Trust easements
3. Cost effective demonstration program for floodplain management that allows water storage, flood control, and is wildlife friendly
4. Shorter return period for conservation incentive tax write offs

Additional Concerns and Issues Important to Supporting Local Economies

- Projects should be allowed to proceed (power plants, oil fields, etc.) to provide jobs
- Government should be involved in helping to solve problems
- Agriculture must be kept strong, productive, and working
- Promote diversification of local economies
- Develop tourism potential
- A critical issue is movement/ transportation of people, goods, and services
- Support local businesses, local ownership, keep money in local area
- Ensure funding for community colleges
- For decisions about tax-structuring, sources, and allocation of money, local input can improve local economies
- Be aware of the importance of funding (utilize Williamson Act)
- Job-base is needed to power economy

4. GROUP FOUR: STRATEGIES

1. Conservation easements
   - Use easements on grazing land; rangeland grazing protects biodiversity
   - Stays in local ownership
   - Allows local management
   - Cropland easements are more difficult, may require change in farming practices
   - Need to consider what happens in 100 years? Right of first refusal
2. Fee purchase of conservation lands
   - Use where there are endangered species
   - Is best used for smaller parcels
3. Incentives for management
   - Need to be structured carefully
4. Population control/ Family planning
5. Education
   - For landowners, local government officials, public
   - Especially about importance of riparian restoration and farmland restoration
6. Fee-based recreation programs
   - Guided tours on the river
   - Hikes or classes in the foothills
   - Should be affordable
7. Mitigation Banking
   - Need to think about how to do it; US Fish and Wildlife Service has slow-changing rules
8. Utilize Safe Harbor Agreements
   - Benefits species
   - Better financing options
9. Renew Williamson Act
   - State should make a long-term commitment to support counties
10. Local zoning compatible with farm and range operations
    - Minimize leap-frog development
    - Pass “Right to Farm” Ordinances (like Kings County) that prohibit nuisance complaints regarding farming practices
11. Promote clean and organic farming and integrated pest management
12. Institute programs to keep farmers farming
    - Better marketing
    - Look at middle management issues
13. Programs for more efficient and sustainable energy
14. Promote jobs in restoration and conservation
    - Farm workers have many of these skills; hire local farmers
    - Create new industries (i.e., native plants and seeds)
    - Promote these strategies in the media
15. Cooperation between non-profits and agencies
    - For acquisition
    - Non-profits can often make things happen more efficiently
16. Cooperative management agreements
17. Update elected officials about local strategies on a regular basis
18. Cooperative planning- regional planning beyond boundaries

5. GROUP FIVE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Conservation Priorities	Strategies Addressing this Priority
Conserve water, use and store water efficiently	– Select low water use crops – Water meters – Improve irrigation methods – Better delivery technology: pipes vs. canals, new supplies – Off-stream peak (Orstimba Creek.) – Modification of subsidy – State or federal tax – Water permit holder fees: state charges for water rights – Education and outreach about water conservation
Funding for private land stewardship	– Prompt funding up-front to help landowners to do stewardship projects, early implementation loan bank – Match missions of funding source and recipient; develop better information on partnerships, funding, and how to work together overcome funding constraints
Southwest corner of the San Joaquin Valley (Concerns about: poor cities, corporate agriculture, urbanization along I –5 corridor; should the State intervene and how?)	– There needs to be a surface water solution and groundwater overdraft solution (to address water quality concerns) – State should review regional water transfers to make sure there is local input and that local economic impacts are analyzed, etc. before moving forward with transfers – Get key stakeholders together to resolve complex State acquisition of land/ open space; make purchases strategic; need to line up politics, legislation, and funding. – Work to achieve restoration potential for upland species, including Kit Fox and Leopard Lizard; make sure private property rights are addressed – Restore aquifer; pay fair market value for land, retain water rights
Transect of protected lands from Monterey to Mono Lake	– Tie scientific data to regional crop management – Combining conservation needs with economic and growth needs – Get political consensus/ back up – Develop conservation easements for biodiversity that are compatible with local land use plans – Use all possible conservation tools: fee acquisition, easements, and stewardships – Consider individual land owners; work with willing participants; utilize State & Federal assistance that pays market price for easements
Air quality clean up	– Use vegetation restoration to reduce dust; reduce the number of trucks traveling down the valley, increase rail transport and institute passenger rail subsidy; control growth

Conceptual Goals

Monterey Bay to Mono Lake biodiversity transect
Southwest San Joaquin Valley comprehensive water, drainage, land use and restoration strategy

III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

An equally important component of the *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop was the Information Exchange. The Legacy Project displayed existing datasets on regional and statewide maps and gathered information on existing regional conservation plans and priorities from the participants. Participants had several opportunities over the day and a half workshop to view the mapped information, interact with staff, and, most importantly, to provide Legacy with valuable data, feedback, and ideas on conservation.

STATION RESULTS

In **The Data Walk** portion of the Information Exchange, regional and statewide maps displayed existing datasets of natural resources, working landscapes, and urban growth projections (such as land cover, impaired waterways, etc). Legacy staff members were available to talk about the different maps. Participants were directed to tell us what data might be incorrect and what additional information was needed to help them do their jobs better. Some participants alerted us to incorrect classifications of land ownership; others informed us of the availability of additional datasets including mapping of floodplains and environmentally sensitive areas. For more details on the datasets and participants' comments, see Appendix C.

At the **Data Catalogs** station, participants were asked, "Are there key restoration and monitoring projects not on the data base?" **California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)** staff fielded questions about the data walk and provided a way for participants to add "data about regional data" to the online CERES data catalogue.

The **Urban Growth Model** displayed projections of population growth distribution and potential urban/ suburban development in the region. This station garnered great interest because participants visually witnessed possible future urban growth scenarios and how they change with different assumptions or constraints on growth.

Many participants visited the **Demo Decision Support Tools Station** staffed by **Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)** employees. This station demonstrated basic and advanced concepts in GIS applications and green mapping. Questions at the station ranged from very technical to more basic ones, such as: What data is available and how is it collected? Staffers noted that the participants were well-informed about GIS technologies.

Participants also contributed information about **Existing and Emerging Conservation Plans** and **Private Land Stewardship Projects,** as well as about places that they considered to be **Regional and Statewide Conservation Priorities**. Their input is recorded on the maps that follow.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EXISTING AND EMERGING CONSERVATION PLANNING EFFORTS

Participants were asked "*Are there existing or emerging conservation plans in the region that aren't currently on Legacy's maps? Why are they important*?"

Of the 33 conservation efforts identified, more than a third addressed more than one type of resource. Sixteen of the programs (48%) addressed Terrestrial Biodiversity, with a number of these focused on riparian habitat or watershed-wide protection or restoration that would benefit both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Fourteen of the 33 programs (approximately 42%) were identified as dealing with some aspect of Aquatic Biodiversity. Approximately 30% of the plans also addressed Rural Recreation, while Working Landscapes and Urban Open Space were each addressed by roughly 20% of the plans. The most commonly cited goals or targets for these plans were rare or sensitive species (mentioned for 20% of plans); riparian preservation (mentioned for 20% of plans); and river restoration (mentioned for 10% of plans).

The dot numbers on the map below are keyed to the subsequent table, which gives information about each plan, such as name of effort, purpose, and the source of information.

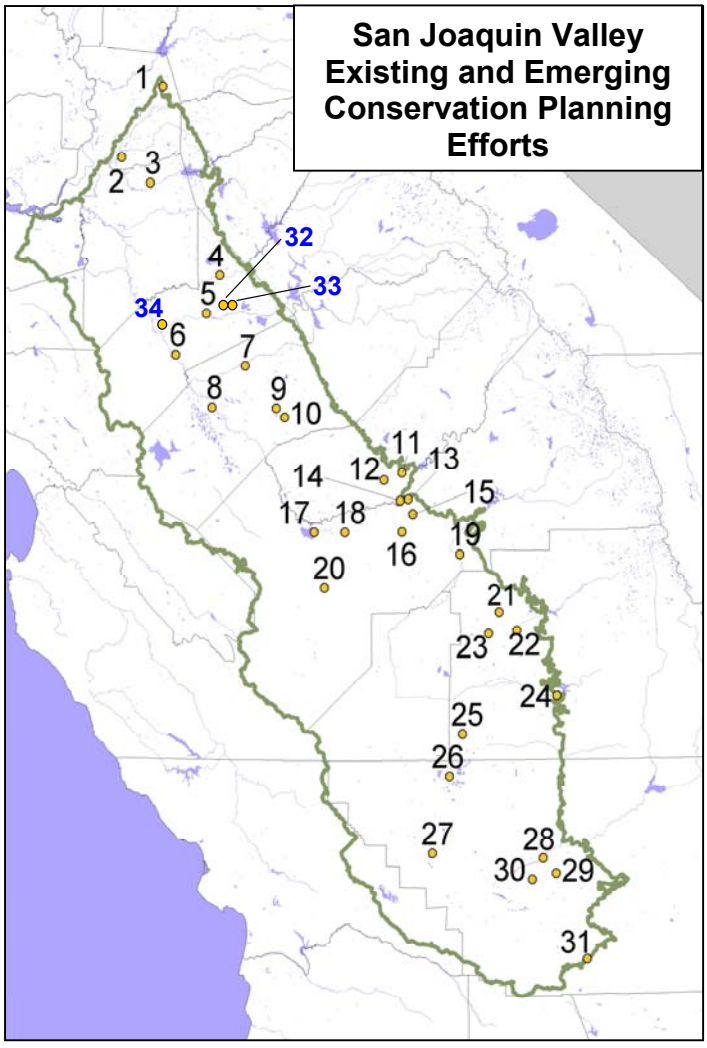


Figure 2. Locations of Existing and Emerging Conservation Planning Efforts identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Table 2: Existing and Emerging Conservation Planning Efforts (EECPE's) identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Resource category addressed:

AB = aquatic biodiversity, watershed including water issues

TB = terrestrial biodiversity, habitat

WL = working landscapes

US = urban open space

RR = rural recreation lands

Dot #	Type of Resource(s) Addressed	Name of Effort	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information[1]	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
1	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	East Sacramento County Blue Oaks rangeland, Conceptual Area Protection Plan	Sacramento	Middle Cosumnes River Watershed & American River watershed	To preserve Blue Oak woodlands & rangeland along the middle Cosumnes watershed.	Aimee Rutledge	Sacramento Valley Conservancy
2		Lower Cosumnes & Mokelumne Confluence, sediment transport	Sacramento	Cosumnes Watershed & Delta	Dealing with sediment issues	Mike Eaton	The Nature Conservancy
3		Mokelumne River			Lower Mokelumne Restoration; stakeholder group- Jones & Stokes Cosumnes/ Mokelumne Alliance Group	Jim Smith	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
4		Stanislaus River Restoration	Stanislaus, San Joaquin	Conceptual Stage		S.P. Kramer	Stanislaus Fish Group
5		Tuolumne River Restoration Plan	Stanislaus	Tuolumne River coalition, all restoration & acquisition coordination on lower Tuolumne River		Tim Ford, Patrick Kopeole	Tuolumne River Trust, Tuolumne Irrigation District
6	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Lower San Joaquin River Non-Structural Approach Demo Project	Stanislaus	Stanislaus County, San Joaquin River floodplain	Floodplain easements on private floodplains to restore corridor (US Fish & Wildlife Service, San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge & East & West Stanislaus Resource Conservation Districts, coordinating with San Joaquin Resource Management Plan, Natural Resources Conservation Service)	Mike McElhiney	US Dept. of Ag. -Natural Resources Conservation Service 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E Modesto, CA 95358
7	AB, TB, US, RR	Merced Corridor Restoration Plan	Merced	Merced Falls to confluence	3 projects: Robinson Reach, Ratcliff Reach, Western Stove	Teri Morrison	Merced Stakeholder Group
8		Upper San Joaquin Restoration	Merced/ Fresno/ Madera		Restoration of river, Friant Dam to confluence	Mr. Jarrod	NRDC
9	WL	Grasslands Wildlife Management Area Expansion	Merced	47,000 acre expansion of existing Wildlife Management Area - agricultural easements	Keep wildlife-friendly agricultural practices going & to provide linkages for Threatened and Endangered species movement	Richard Smith	Fish & Wildlife Service

[1.] Contact information available in Appendix D.

Table 2 cont'd.

Dot #	Type of Resource(s) Addressed	Name of Effort	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information[1]	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
10	TB		Merced	Expansion of East Grasslands Management area	Required conservation of Kit Fox habitat per federal permits; 500 to 1,000 acres	Terry Marshall	Caltrans
11		Yosemite Restoration Trust		Corridor Conservation Project		Janet Cobb	CA Oak Foundation
12	AB, US	Rio Mesa	Madera	Madera 16,000 acres from Friant Dam to Highway 41	Housing development	Ron Pistoresi	Madera Irrigation District
13	AB, TB, RR	Millerton State Recreation Area General Plan Update	Fresno/ Madera	Millerton Lake State Recreation Area & some adjacent lands	Update 25 year old general plan; create resource management plan for Bureau of Reclamation owned lands	Bob Geperson	Kern Forrester, State Parks, US Bureau of Reclamation
14	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Millerton Area watershed Coalition	Fresno/ Madera	Upper San Joaquin River, area surrounding Friant Dam & upstream	Gather information on physical, biological & community economic status of study area/ watershed	Steve Haze	Sierra Foothills Conservancy
15		BMX off road with OHV tracks	Fresno	Fresno County	Recreation	Lori Bufford	California Off Road Vehicle Association
16		Fresno General Plan					
17	AB	Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture	San Joaquin Valley	Central Valley, with Northern San Joaquin & Tulare Basin	To protect & restore key wetland landscapes; to protect agricultural habitat related to watershed needs	Bob Schatter	
18	TB	San Joaquin Valley Recovery Plan for upland species, completed in 1998	7 counties in San Joaquin Valley	San Joaquin Valley	Identify critical habitat & corridors for recovery of upland species, implemented in 1998		US Fish & Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, Endangered Species Branch
19		Your Town Designing its Future workshop	Fresno/ Tulare				
20	RR	Trolley Creek Park	Fresno	Park Bond project of Economic Opportunities Commission local conservation corps in coordination with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control district	Take a ponding basin and create a recreational public park in a poverty stricken neighborhood	Michelle Tutunjian	Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps
21	WL, RR	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Tulare/ Kings	Tulare County & Kings County	Planning to conserve working landscapes and valued open spaces	Soapy Tompkins	Sequoia River lands Trust
22	AB, TB	Los Tulares Trust	Tulare	Tulare County			Los Tulares Trust
23	AB, TB, US	Visalia Waterway Trails Task Force	Tulare	Kaweah River Delta in Urban Visalia	To connect existing quality riparian habitat sites with riparian corridors	Ron Hansen	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
24	TB	City of Porterville Habitat Conservation Plan	Tulare	City of Porterville	Preserve habitat for Valley Elderberry, Longhorn Beetle as mitigation for city-wide impacts on habitat in compliance with Federal Endangered Species Act	Keith Babcock	Impact Sciences, INC
25	TB		Tulare	Expansion of Allensworth Ecological Reserve	Required conservation of Kit Fox habitat per federal permits; 500 to 1,000 acres	Terry Marshall	Caltrans

[1.] Contact information available in Appendix D.

Table 2 cont'd.

Dot #	Type of Resource(s) Addressed	Name of Effort	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information[1]	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
26	RR	Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area	Tulare/ Kings/ Kern	Existing wetlands	Protect 14,000 acres of wetlands surrounding Kern & Pixley Refuges	Richard Smith	Fish & Wildlife Service
27	TB		Kern	Kit Fox habitat	Preservation of Kit Fox habitat required under federal permit, 2,000 acres	Terry Marshall	Caltrans
28	AB, TB, RR	Kern River Parkway Plan	Kern	Kern County, City of Bakersfield	Preserve the river; increase recreational opportunities; keep densities low	Ted James	Kern County, Planning Director
29	TB, US	Metro Bakersfield General Plan	Kern	City & County plan	Planning tool	Jack Hardisty	Resource Planning Director, City of Bakersfield
30	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Kern Master Environmental Assessment Resource	Kern	Kern County	Create a collection of data required for California Environmental Qualiy Act (CEQA) initial studies	Rob Ball	Kern County
31	TB	Tejon Ranch Valley/ Foothill Habitat Conservation Plan	Kern	Tejon Ranch lands in Kern County below 2000 feet elevation	Preserve selected habitat areas on Tejon Ranch for Kit Fox and other state & federally listed species in compliance with state & federal endangered species acts	Keith Babcock	Impact Sciences, Inc.
32[2]	AB	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc. Bobcat Flat	Stanislaus	Lower Tuolumne River	Conservation and restoration of riparian habitat; fee purchase	Allison Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
33[2]	AB	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc. & Waterford Percolation Ponds	Stanislaus	Lower Tuolumne River	Planting a riparian forest	Allison Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
34[2]	AB	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc. & Grayson River Ranch	Stanislaus	Lower Tuolumne River	Conservation easement & planting a riparian forest	Allison Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

1. Contact information available in Appendix D.

2. Information from a separate, smaller-scale workshop held in Modesto, targeting landowners and working land interests.

PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Participants were asked to identify sites where private stewardship conservation projects are in place and have demonstrated success. The three identified stewardship efforts focused on conservation of working lands, with two addressing grazing lands and the third addressing agricultural land. Two of the three projects utilize easements.

Table 3. Private Land Stewardship Projects identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Name of Area	County	Primary aim(s)	Primary landscapes, habitats, or ecosystems involved?	Funding	Source of Information[3]/ Affiliation	Additional Organization(s) that can provide information
Simon Newman Ranch		Grazing land; Riparian/ Oak woodlands	Westside I-5 foothills, The Nature Conservancy Preserve	Yes, The Nature Conservancy	Kirk Ford/ Stanislaus County Planning	The Nature Conservancy
San Joaquin River Planning Trust		Agricultural land easements	Hanson Property - bend in San Joaquin River; Hallowell Little Cottonwood Creek; both are agricultural easements	Foothills, south & east of Lake Yosemite	Sharon Weaver	
Vernal Pools, East Merced Resource Conservation District	Merced	Conservation easements on rangeland			John Volmer/ East Merced Resource Conservation District	

[3] Contact information available in Appendix D.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the regional conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places or resources needing additional conservation attention in the region. The locations identified by participants as regional conservation priorities are shown on the map below. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individual's ideas. This information can be used to consider new places for investment as well as to identify interested groups for a particular location. The dot numbers are keyed to the subsequent table, which provides information about each site, such as location, importance, and the source of information. In general, many highlighted locations centered on the region's rivers, with water quality, flood control, and water storage mentioned as important issues. Of the 76 locations identified, the San Joaquin River was the single feature that received the greatest attention. A total of five dots were assigned to the San Joaquin River, and several west-side Sierra rivers, including the San Joaquin, were listed as priorities for a sixth dot. Suggested actions for conservation of the San Joaquin River included protection of riparian and floodplain areas and restoration of the river channel and flows. Tulare Lake was also noted by three participants as an important location for conservation. Many dots span the foothills along the region's eastern boundary (it should be noted, however, that many of these dots were placed by representatives of the Sierra Foothills Conservancy and the California Oaks Foundation, so the density of dots in this area may reflect the priorities of these organizations rather than the overall priorities of all participants.) Protection of rare and endemic plants and oak woodlands, as well as rapid growth and development were noted concerns in the foothills.

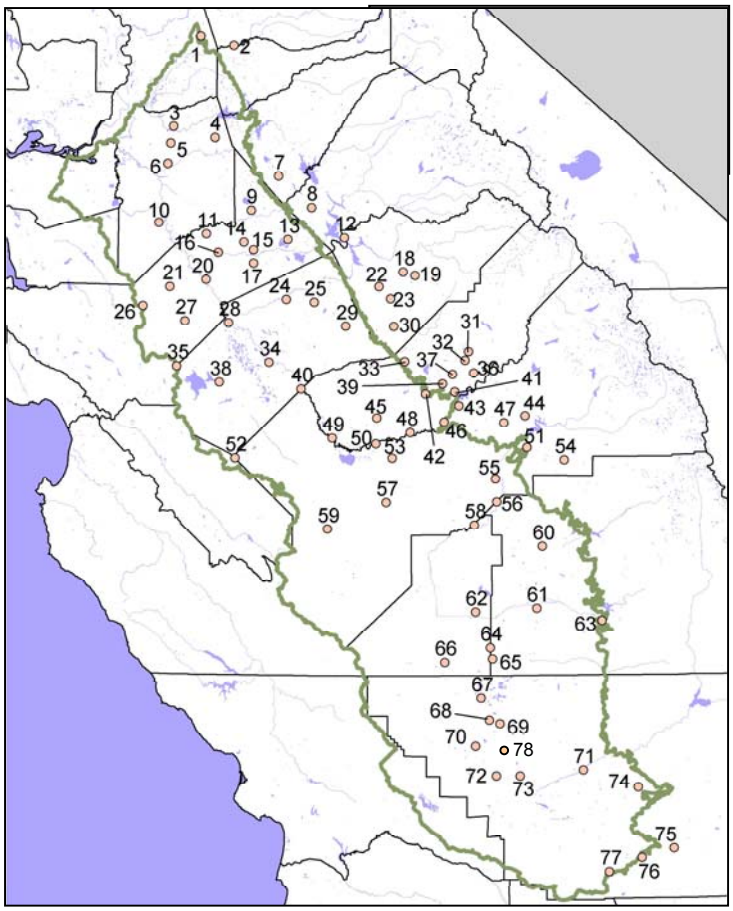


Figure 3. Locations of Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Table 4. Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Area Recognized by an EECPE	Source of Information	Affiliation[4]
1	Sacramento County, middle Cosumnes watershed	Sacramento	Protects Blue Oaks, rangeland, recreational opportunities & investment in lower Cosumnes	Land acquisition & planning	Yes, East Sacramento City Oak Woodlands & Rangeland Conceptual Area Protection Plan	Aimee Rutledge	Sacramento Valley Conservancy
2	Cosumnes River	Amador	Connectivity to lower watershed	Increased private stewardship riparian protection	Uncertain	Rainer Hoenicke	California Legacy Project
3	Mokelume River	San Joaquin	Upstream dam	Watershed control	Yes, City of Lodi	Wayne Knauf	x
4	Farmington to Clemente	San Joaquin County	Growth; Grayland & Wilton	Easements	No	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
5	Lodi/ Stockton	San Joaquin	Greenbelt between cities	Stop Stockton from spreading north	x	Jack Sieglock	San Joaquin County
6	Calaveras River	San Joaquin	Flows		x	x	x
7	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
8	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
9	Oakdale Recreational Pond	Stanislaus	Improve fish passage	x	x	x	x
10	Lathrop	San Joaquin	Avoid development that would impact Delta	Prevent "new city"	x	x	x
11	Stanislaus River	Stanislaus	Growth; natural riparian habitat	Easements & mitigation bank	No	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
12	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
13	East Side of County	Stanislaus	Vernal pool species issues	Money for easement, acquisition, & planning	Yes, US Fish & Wildlife Service designed critical habitat	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County
14	Stanislaus County	Stanislaus	Farmland preservation	Money for planning easements, tax incentives, etc.	Uncertain	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County
15	No information provided	x	x	x	x	x	x
16	Entire County	Stanislaus	Ground water quantity & quality decreasing	Money for groundwater management & planning	x	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County
17	Stanislaus County	Stanislaus	Housing mandates	Legislative relaxation of mandatory housing requirements	x	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Area Recognized by an EECPE	Source of Information	Affiliation[4]
18	Wilson Property	Mariposa	Serpentine, endemic plants	Purchase	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
19	Macready Ranch	Mariposa	Blue Oak woodland	Purchase of easement	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
20	San Joaquin River Corridor	Stanislaus	Riparian habitat - connectivity between grasslands & Delta	Easement/ acquisition	Uncertain	Kim Forrest	Forest Wildlife Services, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
21	West Side of I-5	Stanislaus	San Joaquin Kit Fox & other endangered species	Money for easement, acquisition, & planning	x	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County
22	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
23	Chase Ranch	Mariposa	Blue Oak woodland	Purchase of easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
24	Merced River	Merced	Habitat & agricultural land	Easements	Yes, Merced River Stakeholders	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
25	Eastern Merced County	Merced	Vernal pool habitat	Easement/ acquisition	Yes, vernal pool critical habitat	Kim Forrest	Forest Wildlife Services, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
26	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
27	West Side of County	Stanislaus	Flooding problems	Money for flood control projects & water storage	x	Kirk Ford	Planning Department, Stanislaus County
28	Mendota pool	Merced	Water quality	x	x	x	x
29	Foothills corridors into Yosemite, 120, 140, 41	x	Oak land biodiversity; watersheds; viewsheds to Yosemite	Conservation easements for landowners	Yes, Yosemite Regional Conservation Trust/ California Oak Foundation	Janet Cobb	Yosemite Regional Conservation Trust /California Oak Foundation
30	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
31	Eastern Madera County	Madera	Blue Oaks woodland stream corridors	Purchase of easements & fees	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Area Recognized by an EECPE	Source of Information	Affiliation[4]
32	All west side of Sierra Rivers: Fresno River, Squaw Leap upper San Joaquin River, Kern River, Kaweah River	Fresno/ Madera	Critical habitat for deer winter range, threatened & endangered plants, etc. Important area for recreation, cultural resources	Protect from development & golf course; River Parkway/ Greenway; create trail from Bureau of Land Management Parcel off Road 600 to Oakhurst; Acquisitions along river to finish off connections for San Joaquin River Trail & protect riparian habitat & watershed values	x	Tracy Rowland	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield
33	East side ranchlands	Fresno/ Madera	Critical working habitat for Bald Eagles & other raptors	Protection by conservation easement or acquisition	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Jeanine Koshear	California State Parks
34	San Joaquin River	Multiple Co.s	Flood plain protection	Flood plain easements	x	x	x
35	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
36	Eastern Madera County	Madera	Volcanic mesa, vernal pools & connection to San Joaquin River	Purchase of easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
37	Eastern Madera County	Madera	Blue Oaks woodland	Purchase of easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
38	Santa Nella Area	Merced	Loss of Kit Fox habitat & corridor	Easement/ acquisition	Yes, Kit Fox planning group	Kim Forrest	Forest Wildlife Services, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
39	Millerton Area	Madera	Vernal pools	Purchase of fee & easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
40	Rivers	All counties in San Joaquin Valley	Among other uses, they also provide flood protection	Maintain or improve flood protection while helping to achieve improvements for other river uses	Yes, Sacramento - San Joaquin Comprehensive Study	Pete Rabbon	Reclamation Board
41	East Side Sierra foothills near Fresno & Madera	Fresno/ Madera	Vernal pools	Protection from urban sprawl/ development	Yes & no - Millerton area watershed coalition, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Jeanine Koshear	California State Parks
42	Foothills corridors into Yosemite, 120, 140, 41	x	Oak land biodiversity; watersheds; viewsheds to Yosemite	Conservation easements for landowners	Yes, Yosemite Regional Conservation Trust/ California Oak Foundation	Janet Cobb	Yosemite Regional Conservation Trust /California Oak Foundation
43	Millerton Area	Fresno	Vernal Pools	Purchase of fee & easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
44	Hog Mountain	Fresno	Rare habitat & plants	Purchase of fee & easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
45	Madera Ranch	Madera	Endangered species, water bank potential	Purchase	Yes	x	x
46	San Joaquin River, Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford	Fresno/ Madera	Many factors: Wildlife resources, urban resources, doesn't function	Restore to extent possible	Yes, Several	Melinda Marks	San Joaquin River Conservancy

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Area Recognized by an EECPE	Source of Information	Affiliation[4]
47	Black Mountain	Fresno	Rare plants; prime chaparral habitat	Purchase of fee & easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
48	Regional	x	x	To address water recycling plans to meet future development needs	Uncertain	Bob Haussler	California Energy Commission
49	San Joaquin River	Fresno/Madera	Restore river	Restore flows between Gravelly Ford to Merced River	Uncertain	Lloyd Carter	Save Our Streams
50	San Joaquin River, Gravelly Ford to Mendota Pool	Fresno/ Madera	Dry portion of San Joaquin River	Restore to extent pass	Yes, NRDC/ FWUA among others	Melinda Marks	San Joaquin River Conservancy
51	Tiny Mountain	Fresno	Rare plants; serpentine soils	Purchase of fee & easements	Yes, Sierra Foothills Conservancy	Chuck Peck	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
52	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
53	San Joaquin Valley	Kern/ Tulare/ Fresno/ Madera	Air pollution	Transportation	Uncertain	Gloria Moralez	Reclamation Board
54	Mill Creek Drainage	Fresno	Last uncontrolled tributary to Kings River, comes in below Pine Flat Dam. Serious flooding potential in El Nino years. Degraded by surrounding foothill "ex-urbanization." Supports remnant deer herd, other wildlife & game.	Flood control/water storage facility in Wonder Valley area; surveillance for pollution; clean-up program for debris.	No, Kings River Conservation District ignores it.	x	x
55	Kings River	Fresno/Tulare/Kings	No existing long range plan	Long range plan	Yes, Your Town Designing its Future. National Endowment for the Arts, National Park Service; Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program	Connie Krahn	El Rio Reyes Trust
56	Kings River Conservation District	Fresno/ Kings /Tulare	Large watershed	Remove invasive plant species like Liatris, Water Hyacinth, etc.	x	x	x
57	Fresno/ Madera	Fresno/ Madera	Water	Water storage	Uncertain	Gloria Moralez	Reclamation Board
58	Lower Kings River	South Fresno Boundary	x	Research surface water quality	x	Pam Buford	Regional Water Quality Control Board
59	x	x	Ring of Oak Woodlands, range of Sierra Black Oaks, Blue Oaks, Valley Oaks	Oaks have no protection Statewide	x	Janet Cobb	California Oaks Foundation
60	San Joaquin Valley Oak Woodlands	Tulare	Little remaining	Money for local trust use	Yes, Los Tulares	Wayne Knauf	x
61	Tule River	Tulare/ Kings	Riparian corridor	Easements, appropriate buffers	Uncertain	Keith Babcock	Impact Sciences
62	Tulare Lake	Tulare/ Kings	Ground water quality	Meet basin plan objectives		Pam Buford	Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Area Recognized by an EECPE	Source of Information	Affiliation[4]
63	Porterville	Tulare	Endangered species	Restoration	Uncertain	Dr. Jimmy L. Shaw	Tule River Parkway Association
64	Tulare Lake Basin	Tulare	Unique	Study & planning	Uncertain	Wayne Knauf	x
65	Atwell Island	Kern/ Tulare	CVPIA land retirement demo project	Upland habitat restoration is underway, more acquisition needed in area	No	Steve Larson	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield
66	Corridors Identified in Missing Linkages Report	x	Genetic Exchange for species	Acquire property easements	Yes, Missing Linkages Report	Kristen Penrod/ Richard Smith	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
67	Semitropic Ridge	Kern	Existing preserve	Acquire additional land	Yes, CNLM	x	x
68	Tulare Lake, Goose Lake, Buena Vista Lake	Kern	Historic wetland; water quality	Restore to extent possible	Yes, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture	Fritz Ried	x
69	Tulare Lake, Goose Lake, Buena Vista Lake	Kern	Loss of wetland habitat	Acquisition of land & easements & restoration	Yes, FWS easements	Kim Forrest	Forest Wildlife Services, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
70	Kern County	Kern	Retired farm land (fallowed) should be protected for conservation values	Link retired farm lands with state water transfer mitigation trust	x	x	x
71	Kern River	Kern	Rapid urbanization	Purchase of riparian lands	Uncertain	Pauline Larwood	Smart growth Coalition of Kern County
72	Lo-Kern Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Kern	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Acquisition, preservation, & restoration of habitat	Yes, Caliente Resource Management Plan	Steve Larson	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield
73	Lokern Preserve	Kern	Add to existing reserve	Land acquisition	Yes, CNLM	x	x
74	Caliente Creek	Kern	Flood, water storage	Flood Control/ water storage	Uncertain	x	x
75	Tehachapi Mountains	Kern/ Los Angeles	Regional habitat linkage	Preserve private lands; acquire more biological data	Yes, South Coast habitat linkages	Keith Babcock	Impact Sciences
76	Tehachapi Mountains	Kern/ Los Angeles	Habitat linkages	x	Yes, South Coast linkages project	x	x
77	Tejon Pass	Kern	Excess development from Los Angeles	Easement/ acquisition	x	x	x
78	Poso Creek Riparian Area north of Bakersfield	Kern	Potential wildlife corridor between Sierras and Kern Wildlife Refuge	x	x	Robert Ball	Kern Council of Governments

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STATEWIDE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the statewide conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places and resources needing additional conservation attention in the state. The locations are shown on the map below. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individuals' ideas. The dot numbers are keyed to the subsequent table, which gives information about each site, such as location, reason for conservation needs, and the source of information. The majority of dots were placed in the San Joaquin Valley and just beyond the Valley edges in the foothills; this probably reflects the fact that participants are most knowledgeable about their own region, and also indicates that participants believe conservation priorities in their region warrant as much attention as other locations throughout the state. The dots were distributed throughout the Valley, without pronounced clusters around specific sites. Two features that did receive particular attention were the San Joaquin River and foothill habitats, especially oak woodlands, both to the east and west of the Valley. On a statewide basis, water quality issues, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, and rapid growth and development in the foothill regions were repeatedly cited as important concerns.

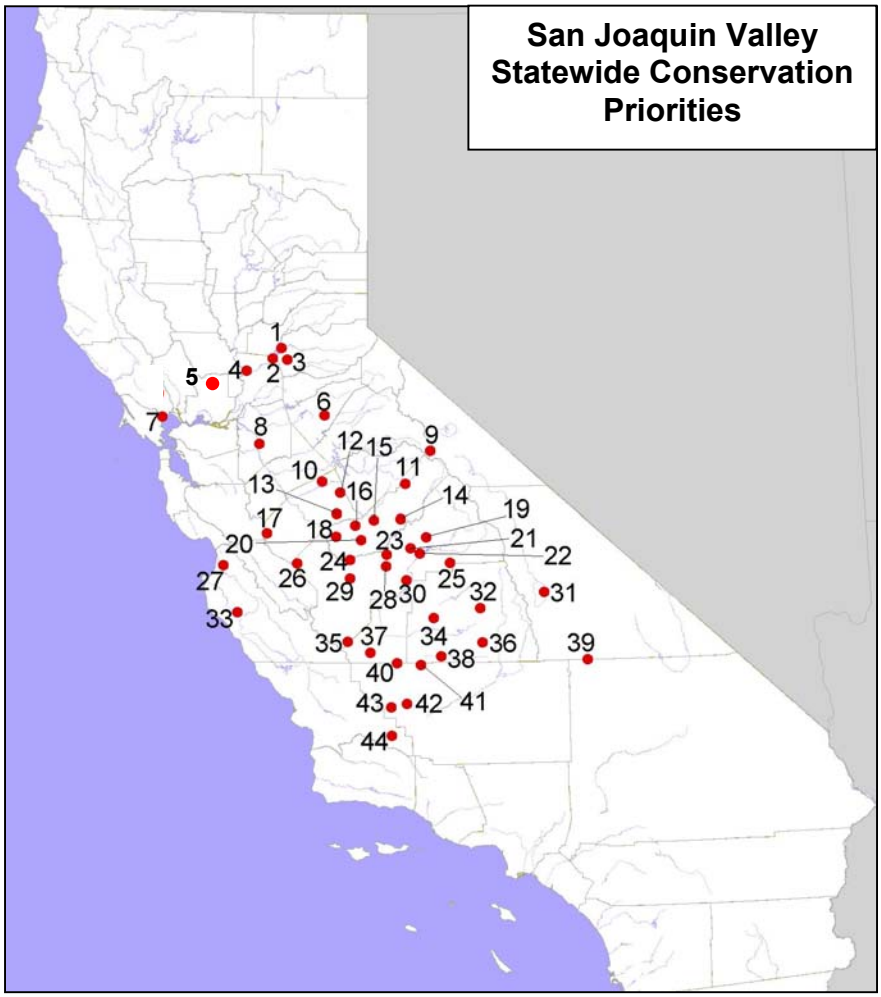

Figure 4. Locations of Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Table 5. Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the San Joaquin Valley.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affilitation[5]
1	Highway 50 corridor	Sacramento/ El Dorado	Key foothill oak habitat	Stop urban explosion	Fritz Reid	Ducks Unlimited
2	Middle and Upper Cosumnes watershed	Sacramento/ El Dorado	To protect & expand existing investment in lower Cosumnes & Delta	Land acquisition; water barrier removal; water quality protection		
3	Highway 50 corridor east of Sacramento	El Dorado	Over-development of foothill habitats	Easement/ acquisition	Kim Forrest	US Fish& Wildlife Service
4	Entire State	All	Local governments are threatened with loss of Williamson Act subvention funds - significantly decreasing the incentive to participate in the program. Conflicts between Housing & Community Development vs. Resources & US Fish & Wildlife.	Revise governors budget to return subvention funds to Counties; Resolve legislative conflicts between Agency mandates e.g. requirement for counties to provide specific #'s of housing units in unincorporated areas & preservation of agricultural lands & natural areas.	Kirk Ford	Stanislaus County Planning Dept.
5	Entire State	All		Resolve legislative conflicts between Agency mandates i.e.; requirement for counties to provide specific #'s of housing units in unincorporated areas & preservation/ conservation of agricultural lands & natural resource areas. (HCD vs. Resources & USFWS)	Kirk Ford	Stanislaus County
6	San Andreas to Mariposa	Calaveras/ Mariposa	Ancient Blue Oak forest without protection	Scenic/ conservation easement on Highway 49, Blue Oak Highway	Janet Cobb	California Oak Foundation
7	Upper San Francisco Bay	Marin	Wetlands protection to protect water quality and biodiversity	Acquire/ restore wetlands	Richard F. Sloan	River Tree Volunteers
8	San Joaquin County	San Joaquin	Urban sprawl from Bay Area encouraged by transportation planning- BART & Pombo freeway	Easement/ acquisition	Kim Forrest	US Fish& Wildlife Service
9	Highway 120, 140, 41, & 49			Scenic & conservation easement on corridors to Yosemite	Janet Cobb	California Oak Foundation
10	East Stanislaus County	Stanislaus	Oak upland	Easement	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservation
11	Foothill Woodland groves	Various	Significant biodiversity & watershed values	Preservation	Jeff Single	CA Dept. of Fish and Game
12	Merced County	Merced	Rangelands	Easement	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
13	Merced County	Merced	Vernal pools			

[5] Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization. Contact information for participants available in Appendix D.

Table 5 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affiliation[5]
14	All west side of Sierra Rivers: Fresno River, Squaw Leap upper San Joaquin River, Kern River, Kaweah River	Fresno/ Madera	Critical habitat for deer winter range, threatened & endangered plants, etc. Important area for recreation, cultural resources	Protect from development & golf course; River Parkway/ Greenway; create trail from Bureau of Land Management Parcel off Road 600 to Oakhurst; Acquisitions along river to finish off connections for San Joaquin River Trail & protect riparian habitat & watershed values	Tracy Rowland	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield
15	Chuckchansi Picayune	Madera	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
16	North Fork Run	Madera	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
17	Ring around all of the valley	Various	Loss of oak woodlands in foothills	Easement/ acquisition	Kim Forrest	US Fish& Wildlife Service
18	Madera	Merced	Wetlands	Easement	Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Valley Conservation
19	Cold Springs	Fresno	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
20	San Joaquin River to confluence with Merced	Fresno, Madera, Merced	Rapid urban growth	Conservation of both agricultural land & wild land	Sharon Weaver	San Joaquin River Conservancy
21	Table Mountain Ranch	Fresno	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
22	Big Sandy`	Fresno	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
23	San Joaquin River between Friant Dam	Fresno/ Madera	Recreation/ Water supply/ Migration/ Corridor	Coherent plan agreed upon by all users (ag, recreation, environmental community)	Richard F. Sloan	River Tree Volunteers
24	Madera County	Madera	Natural lands			
25	Mill Creek tributary to Kings River	Fresno	Last uncontrolled tributary to Kings River, comes in below Pine Flat Dam. Serious flooding potential in El Nino years. Degraded by surrounding foothill "ex-urbanization." Supports remnant deer herd, other wildlife & game.	Flood control/water storage facility in Wonder Valley area; surveillance for pollution; clean-up program for debris.		
26	Western Fresno, Tulare, Kings	Kern/ Merced	Extensive water quality impact to San Joaquin River & California aqueduct	Planning & implementation & Coordinated Resource Management Plans		
27	Monterey to Bodie		Monterey to Bodie transect, Biodiversity demonstration project	Acquisition/ easement	Janet Cobb	California Oak Foundation
28	San Joaquin River, Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford	Fresno/ Madera	Many factors: Wildlife resources, urban resources, doesn't function	Restore to extent possible	Melinda Marks	San Joaquin River Conservancy
29	San Joaquin River, Gravelly Ford to Mendota Pool	Fresno/ Madera	Dry portion of San Joaquin River	Restore to extent possible	Melinda Marks	San Joaquin River Conservancy
30	Valley floor & foothill riparian	All	Riparian habitat - mostly lost	Preservation, restoration, public access, water supply	Jeff Single	CA Dept. of Fish and Game
31	Owens Valley	Inyo	Historic wetland; air pollution	Restoration	Fritz Reid	Ducks Unlimited
32	Case Mountain (near Sequoia National Park)	Tulare	Giant Sequoia Groves	Land acquisition, easements to protect groves & provide public access	Tracy Rowland	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield

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Table 5 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affilitation[5]
33	Fort Hunter Ligget		Oaks	Regional-State-National cooperation	Janet Cobb	California Oak Foundation
34	Oaks to Tules corridor	Tulare	Top Swainsons Hawk breeding area in county and riparian corridor	Work with partners in Fish & Wildlife Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to get riparian easements	Rob Hansen	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
35	Western Fresno, Tulare, Kings	Kern/ Merced	Extensive water quality impact to San Joaquin River & California aqueduct	Planning & implementation & Coordinated Resource Management Plans		
36	Tule River	Tulare	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
37	Santa Rosa	Kings	Indian Reservation	Tribe to define	Marta Frausto	Caltrans
38	Deer Creek Corridor	Tulare	A cross section of Tulare Valley habitat on an unregulated stream, a corridor that includes in it sand dunes adjacent to old Tulare Lake	Work with State Parks (upper watershed) & private land owners (easements)	Rob Hansen	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
39	Upper Mojave Desert		Important biodiversity	Limit or focus development and recreational use. Acquire & regulate.	Richard F. Sloan	River Tree Volunteers
40	South Tulare Lakebed	Kings/ Kern	Best water bird habitat in 4 county area	Incentive approach with Tulare Lake farm interests	Rob Hansen	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
41	Valley floor wetlands (south)	Kern, Kings, Tuoluomne, Fresno	Major wetland features (now mostly lost)	Land preservation, water supply wetland restoration	Jeff Single	CA Dept. of Fish and Game
42	Tulare Lakebed	Kern	Historic wetland; wildlife habitat	Easement & restoration	Fritz Reid	Ducks Unlimited
43	Western Fresno, Tulare, Kings	Kern/ Merced	Extensive water quality impact to San Joaquin River & California aqueduct	Planning & implementation & Coordinated Resource Management Plans		
44	Carrizo Plain		National monument; biodiversity; cultural history	Acquire fee or conservation easements within monument boundary	Steve Larson	Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield

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IV. MESSAGES TO MARY D. NICHOLS, SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

At the close of the workshop, participants were asked what messages they would like the Legacy Project staff to relay to Mary D. Nichols, Secretary for Resources. The following is an edited transcription of the participants' comments:

- Attention needs to be paid to air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. Problems are very severe. The speaker expresses the wish that the State would convene a valley-wide workshop on air quality problems and solutions.

- The State Open Space Bond Act does not provide enough funding to develop and plan projects qualified for the bond; the Valley needs that kind of money to catch-up and compete with other regions for funds.

- The speaker expresses concern that the Governor is blocking the budget for cultural funding under Prop 40, and only allocating funds that he can line-item control. The speaker is very interested in applying for the funding that has been delayed and has the perception that a change of departmental control is needed to prevent the inappropriate line-iteming of funds that now go to State Parks. (Jennifer Galehouse, Assistant Secretary for Legislation, explains that this is being resolved).

- The speaker is very happy that the Legacy Project is collecting data about existing and emerging conservation plans, regional criteria for conservation, and regional strategies for conservation, as well as collecting so much mapping and making it available. The speaker asks: How will all of this be updated? How will the Legacy Project come back and keep contacts with the region? How will the Departments responsible for making actual investment decisions keep regional participants informed about what kinds of investments they are pursuing for the Valley?

- Because of the San Joaquin Valley dynamics, the amount of food production and open space, it is important to keep information for conservation decisions in the region separate from information considered for other areas is the State.

- Please keep the organizations that have been involved in conservation in the San Joaquin Valley up-to-date on what is going on at the State level, so that they can get involved in tracking it.

- State agencies that make conservation investment decisions need the kind of input that has been given at this workshop, and they need to contact the groups here on specific issues and projects.

- The speaker appreciates the fact that the information gathered at the workshop will come back to participants, and hopes that participants will have continued involvement with the Legacy Project and the departments making investments.

- The Williamson Act subvention to counties must be restored.

- Any proposals for Farmland Conversion Impact Fees on local development need to be vetted for fiscal and legal implications; don't require local governments to enact unfunded mandates for these fees.

- Farmland Conversion Impact fees should not be applied to cities, only counties. Because it is desirable to encourage development in cities and discourage it in the County, the fee should only be applied in the Counties.

- The speaker is impressed by the caliber of staff involved in this workshop.

- The speaker asks Secretary Nichols to hear the San Joaquin Valley's sense of urgency. The Valley feels that the speed of growth and change is very fast, and that there is little time to save the essential heritage of the Valley. The San Joaquin Valley also feels that much less attention is paid to the Valley than to other parts of the state.

- The speaker expresses concern that the State's workshops have raised San Joaquin Valley residents' expectations above realistic levels. The speaker asks what portion of bond monies this region with low population and good resources can really expect. (Madelyn Glickfeld, Legacy Project Director, reminds them that they are great candidates for stewardship and conservation easement funds.)

- The Legacy Project needs to get environmental justice groups, farm workers, and tribes to participate in the regional workshops. Farmland conservation easements should include provisions that protect the health of farm workers. Therefore, organic farmers and farmers who provide a healthy working environment should get priority for conservation easements; commitments to continue these practices should be part of conservation easements.

V. FINAL REPORT

The Legacy Project will place an interim report from each workshop on the Legacy Project website, once it has been reviewed by participants for accuracy. The project will also further examine the existing and emerging plans, suggested conservation priorities and strategies, and the proposed places for priority investment in the region. The Legacy Project will produce a final report summarizing results from all nine workshops late in 2003. The report will be available on the website or by mail for review by all interested parties, and will be the basis for future dialogue with stakeholders. A final wrap-up session will be held July 16, 2003 in Sacramento. Information and analyses from these workshops will be shared with Resources Agency departments, boards and conservancies to assist them in their conservation investment decision-making. Workshop results will also be applied in developing better data and planning-support tools and information for stakeholders across the state.

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APPENDIX A
WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The invitation process

The Legacy Project and its consultants identified a wide range of stakeholders from throughout the region to provide as much balance in geographic distribution as possible for the San Joaquin Valley workshop. The compilation of the invitation list and acceptance of registrations was accomplished with the help of many people. The practical logistics of the effort are summarized as follows:

- The workshop regions were developed based on the California Biodiversity Council Bioregions of the State.
- Approximately 90 Advisory Committee members from public agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the private sector were consulted to suggest potential candidates for the San Joaquin Valley workshop.
- The list was carefully reviewed and balanced for categorical inclusion and regional representation. We included a wide variety of stakeholders from public agencies to private landowners, from environmental groups to agricultural interests. Further, we continually reviewed the geographic representation, working by counties, and increased the outreach to underrepresented areas.
- More than 200 invitation letters were mailed. RSVPs were received either by phone, postcard or e-mail.
- The respondent lists were reviewed for balance in category and geographic representation, and the follow up outreach focused on underrepresented groups.

Pre-workshop packets

- As the RSVP responses were received, pre-workshop packets were subsequently mailed out.
- The packets contained detailed information on the locations, agenda, the discussion group process, and a detailed description of the Information Exchange.

Workshop participation

- There were 69 participants and observers over the course of the day-and-a-half workshop.

California Legacy Project
San Joaquin Valley
"Spotlight on Conservation" Workshop

AGENDA

The California Resources Agency

Sponsors

Platinum:

California Department of Parks and Recreation

CA OHV Recreation Division

Trust for Public Land

The Wildlands Conservancy

US Geological Survey

Gold:

State Parks Foundation

Bureau Land Management

Silver:

Defenders of Wildlife

Fresno, CA

March 12: Day 1

1:00 pm	Welcome by the Honorable Juan Arambula, Chair, Fresno County Board of Supervisors; Norman Crow, Watershed Coordinator, Stanislaus Resource Conservation District.
1:30	Introductions and workshop overview.
1:45	Presentation and discussion of the Legacy Project: Madelyn Glickfeld, Assistant Secretary, The Resources Agency, California Legacy Project.
2:30	Break
2:45	Presentation by Tim Ramirez, Assistant Secretary, CA Resources Agency: "How They Fit Together: CALFED, the Legacy Project, and other State and Federal Programs."
…3:15	Brainstorm session on established and emerging conservation plans, regional challenges, risks and opportunities. Objective: To gain a sense of the unique characteristics of the region and how they affect conservation efforts.
4:15	Description of 1st small-group exercise on developing criteria used for conservation planning.
4:30	Information Exchange; light buffet. Objective: To share information on natural resources and conservation in the region.
6:30 pm	Adjourn

California Legacy Project
San Joaquin Valley
***"Spotlight on Conservation"* Workshop**

AGENDA

MARCH 13: DAY 2

8:00 am Information Exchange; continental breakfast.

8:30 Introduction to 2nd day's activities; brief review of 1st day; review of small-group exercise on conservation "criteria."

8:45 Small group session; identifying regional conservation criteria.
Objective: To gain a sense of criteria that participants would use for determining Investments in conservation of various resources (terrestrial biodiversity; aquatic biodiversity, riparian habitats and watersheds; working landscapes; urban open space; and rural recreation).

10:45 Break

11:15 Large group session; ranking the importance of the criteria established by the small groups.
Objective: To allow participants to hear what each group decided and have the chance to rank the relative importance of the various criteria established by the small groups.

12:15 Information Exchange; buffet lunch

1:30 pm Potential Uses of the California Conservation Digital Atlas.
Objective: To allow participants to review this web-based tool with interactive maps that can help support planning efforts.

2:00 Break

2:15 Small group session; conservation priorities and strategies in the region.
Objective: To gain a sense of participant's highest priorities for conservation, and to discuss strategic directions and steps to achieve these outcomes.

3:15 Report on workshop results to Luree Stetson, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Programs, The Resources Agency, State of California.

4:30 pm Adjourn

APPENDIX B

METHODOLOGY FOR WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

Once the small group identified criteria for each of the resource categories, they edited, simplified, and refined them. In the large group, facilitators presented each of the criteria. For each resource category, participants ranked all of the criteria, numbering them from highest to lowest priority (1=highest priority). Our process of criteria ranking purposefully does not ask participants to express priority between different resource types (e.g. aquatic biodiversity criteria aren't ranked against working lands criteria). Rather, participants are only asked to express priority within a given resource category (e.g. the identified aquatic biodiversity criteria are ranked against one another).

Based on the full group's scores, a relative level of priority is then determined for each criterion. The process for determining relative priority is as follows: For each criterion, all of participants' scores are summed. Once the values for each criterion are totaled, a "percent rank of total score" is calculated. The criteria with the maximum total score is be given a 100% and all other scores are given a percentage relative to that maximum score. A model for extracting "natural breaks" is then used to group the relative percent scores into three classes (low, medium, and high priority). The Jenk's Model extracts "natural breaks" between the relative percent scores by grouping them into 3 classes in which the sum of each group's variance is minimized.

APPENDIX C
INFORMATION EXCHANGE DATA

AVAILABLE DATA & DATA NEEDS

** Approximation only--refer to original physical maps, archived with Legacy Project, for exact location

C = correction N = needed

AV = available

Data	Comment	Location**	Source of information
AV	Have boundary data for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, which is a part of the Nat'l wildlife System, is composed almost exclusively of easements.		Richard Smith, Natural Resource Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
C	Clarification should be made about the ownership of lands designated as part of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Primarily these are private lands under conservation easements, not federally owned land. The Diablo NWR is a proposed refuge in the form of a US Fish & Wildlife Service Conservation easement, a lot of DFG & DPR lands in the Diablo NWR are incorrectly classified.	San Luis NWR, Diablo NWR	Mark Pelz, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Service Office
AV	The eastern part of the Lemoore Naval Air Station is easements	Lemoore Naval Air Station	John Crane, Natural Resource Specialist, Lemoore Naval Air Station
AV	Reclamation Board has100-year floodplain data based on different data than FEMA data.		Peter Rabbon, General Manager, Reclamation Board, Sacramento, CA
C	The Tule River Reservation has private lands within the boundaries of the reservation that should be displayed as owned by the Dept. of Defense.	Tule River Reservation	Wayne Knauf
N	Would like to see data on impacts of development/ urban growth on connectivity of wildlife corridors/ habitat.	Regionwide	Jeannine Koshear, Ph.D. San Joaquin District, CA Department of Parks and Recreation
AV	Has data on vegetation, ownership & Fresno Co. parcel map; is working with ISIS center at Fresno for GIS coverages for these areas.	Regionwide/ Fresno County	Jeannine Koshear, Ph.D. San Joaquin District, CA Department of Parks and Recreation
AV	Caltrans has Environmental Sensitive Area designations along state routes. The designations aim to protect culturally significant resources.		Martha Fausto, California Department of Transportation
AV	Sphere of influence and General Plan data		Sandy Brock
AV	Reclamation Board has data on designated floodways	Regionwide	Steve Bradley
AV	Data on habitat and stream		
AV	Has data on county land ownership for Caltrans region 10 Part Integration Program		Terry Marshall, Caltrans Region 10 Jennifer Vick (Stillwater/ Merced River) Tim Ford (Tuolumne River) J.D. Whikert (Stanislaus River, Anadromous Fish Restoration Program)

APPENDIX D
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